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BATTLESTAR GALACTICA

DEATHTRAP!



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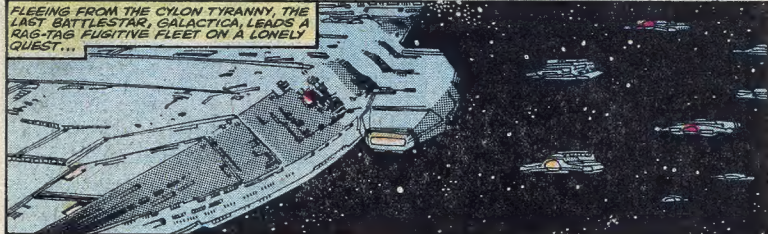


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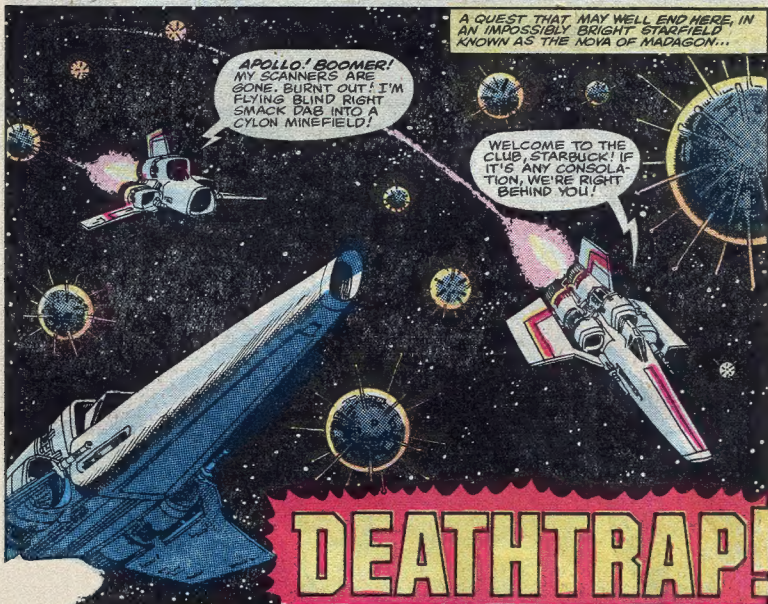
FLEEING FROM THE CYLON TYRANNY, THE
LAST BATTLESTAR, GALACTICA, LEADS A
RAG-TAG FUGITIVE FLEET ON A LONELY
QUEST...



A QUEST THAT MAY WELL END HERE, IN
AN IMPOSSIBLY BRIGHT STARFIELD
KNOWN AS THE NOVA OF MADAGON...

APOLLO! BOOMER!
MY SCANNERS ARE
GONE. BURNT OUT! I'M
FLYING BLIND RIGHT
SMACK DAB INTO A
CYLON MINEFIELD!

WELCOME TO THE
CLUB, STARBUCK! IF
IT'S ANY CONSOLA-
TION, WE'RE RIGHT
BEHIND YOU!



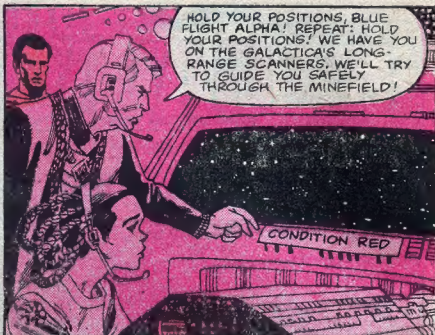
DEATHTRAP!

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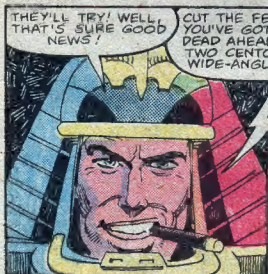


BEGGIN' YOUR PARDON, CAPTAIN, IT'S NOT WHAT'S BEHIND ME THAT'S BOTHERING ME! IT'S WHAT'S JUST AHEAD THAT'S GOT ME WORRIED!

I MEAN IT'S A LITTLE LATE TO TURN BACK! SO WHAT DO WE DO?

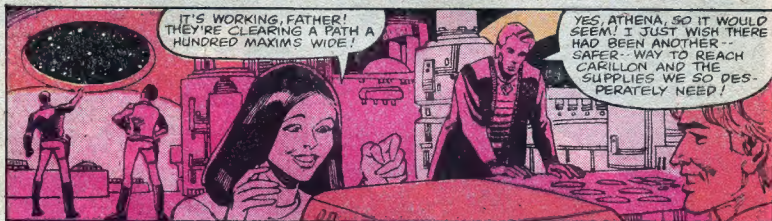
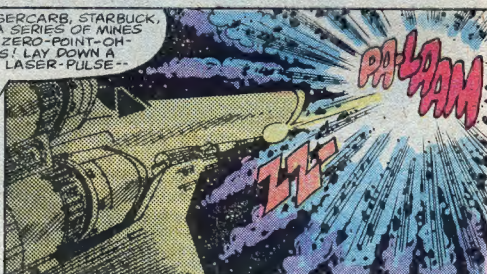


HOLD YOUR POSITIONS, BLUE FLIGHT ALPHA! REPEAT: HOLD YOUR POSITIONS! WE HAVE YOU ON THE GALACTICA'S LONG-RANGE SCANNERS. WE'LL TRY TO GUIDE YOU SAFELY THROUGH THE MINEFIELD!



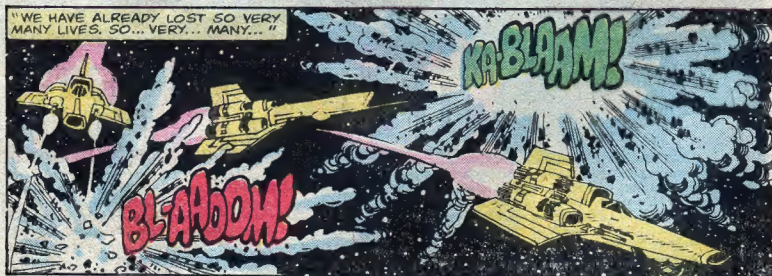
THEY'LL TRY! WELL, THAT'S SURE GOOD NEWS!

CUT THE FELGERCARB, STARBUCK, YOU'VE GOT A SERIES OF MINES DEAD AHEAD! ZERO-POINT-ONE-TWO CENTONS! LAY DOWN A WIDE-ANGLE LASER-PULSE--

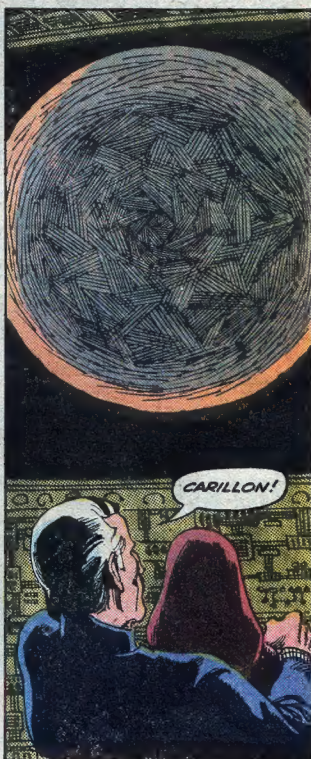


IT'S WORKING, FATHER! THEY'RE CLEARING A PATH A HUNDRED MAXIMS WIDE!

YES, ATHENA, SO IT WOULD SEEM! I JUST WISH THERE HAD BEEN ANOTHER-- SAFER--WAY TO REACH CARILLON AND THE SUPPLIES WE SO DESPERATELY NEED!



"WE HAVE ALREADY LOST SO VERY MANY LIVES. SO... VERY... MANY..."



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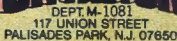
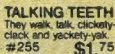
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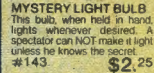
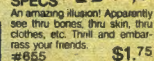
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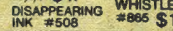


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MEANWHILE, SOME SEVERAL
HUNDRED QUADRONS AWAY...

IT HAS BEEN SEVEN
CENTONS, AND NOT ONE
WORD OF THE HUMAN
SURVIVORS! WHAT HAVE
YOU TO REPORT,
CENTURIAN?

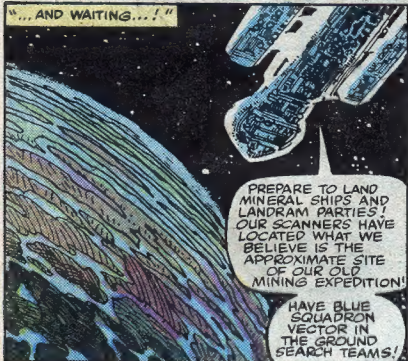


NOTHING HAS
BEEN SEEN OR
HEARD OF THE
HUMANS;
IMPERIOUS
LEADER!

THEIR LACK OF PROVISIONS
WILL SOONER OR LATER
FORCE THEM TO LAND
WITHIN OUR STAR SYSTEM!
WE WILL BE WATCHING...
AND LISTENING...



W... AND WAITING...!"

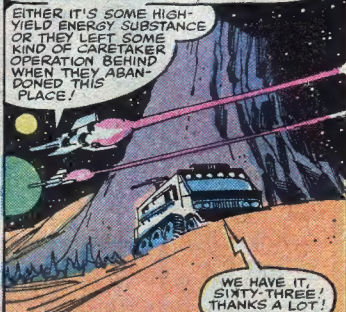


PREPARE TO LAND
MINERAL SHIPS AND
LANDRAM PARTIES!
OUR SCANNERS HAVE
LOCATED WHAT WE
BELIEVE IS THE
APPROXIMATE SITE
OF OUR OLD
MINING EXPEDITION!

HAVE BLUE
SQUADRON
VECTOR IN
THE GROUND
SEARCH TEAMS!

VECTOR SIXTY-THREE TO GROUND EXPEDITION
ONE: SCANNERS READ LIFE FORMS
BEYOND THESE COORDINATES!

EITHER IT'S SOME HIGH-
YIELD ENERGY SUBSTANCE
OR THEY LEFT SOME
KIND OF CARETAKER
OPERATION BEHIND
WHEN THEY ABAN-
DONED THIS
PLACE!



WE HAVE IT,
SIXTY-THREE!
THANKS A LOT!



I WONDER WHAT THIS
PLACE IS LIKE IN THE
DAYTIME, BOOMER?

THIS IS THE
DAYTIME.

LOVELY.

MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER MINERAL SHIP SOME MILLI-CENTONS AWAY.

NOW YOUR MISSION, BOXEY, IS TO KEEP YOUR EYE ON THAT READ-OUT. IF THE INDICATOR GETS UP INTO THIS COLORED AREA, IT MEANS WE'RE RIGHT ON TOP OF A RICH TYLIUM DEPOSIT!

YES, SIR!

HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO PRIORITY SUCH A GREEN CREW? A FATHER ON THE QUORUM OF THE TWELVE?

WELL, SERINA, THAT DOESN'T HURT... BUT WE'D BETTER CONCENTRATE ON OUR MISSION. WE DARE NOT STOP ON ANY ONE PLANET FOR TOO LONG!

OH, BECAUSE THERE ARE AND ALWAYS HAVE BEEN LIVING BEINGS WHO CAN NOT ACCEPT ANYTHING THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND. ANYTHING... DIFFERENT!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, DIFFERENT?

BUT, CAPTAIN APOLLO, I DON'T SEE WHY WE HAD TO LEAVE HOME AT ALL! WHY'D THOSE CYLONS WANT TO HURT US?

JUST ABOUT ANYTHING AT ALL, BOXEY! THE SHAPE OF YOUR EYES, THE NUMBER OF LIMBS, THE COLOR OF YOUR SKIN... EVEN THOUGHTS AND IDEAS! THEY JUST AREN'T EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH DIFFERENCE!

YOU MEAN THEY'RE STUPID?

I GUESS BY OUR STANDARDS. HOW CAN IT BE ANYTHING BUT STUPID TO KILL WHAT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND?

WHY DON'T WE KILL THEM BACK?

WHAT IF THEY COME AFTER US?

WE MIGHT HAVE TO DEFEND OURSELVES. MAYBE EVEN KILL THEM.

BUT THEN WE'D BE LIKE THEM, WOULDN'T WE?

THEN WE'D BE CHANGING WHAT WE ARE... TO BE LIKE THEM! IT'S BETTER FOR US TO GO SOMEPLACE ELSE!

BOXEY, YOU'RE BEGINNING TO SEE HOW COMPLICATED LIFE CAN BE...

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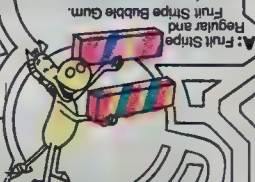
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Please Print Your Last Name Plainly Below

Hey Kids, have as much fun
in Fruit Stripe Land as you do
chewing Fruit Stripe Gum.



Q: There are two delicious
Fruit Stripe Gums to choose from.
What are they?



Q: Why do we
put all those wild,
colorful, fruity
stripes on every single
stick?



Q: There's a
whole herd of flavors
inside every pack.
How many can
you find?

A: Lemon, Orange,
Cherry, Lime, Grape
and Bubble Gum
flavor, too.



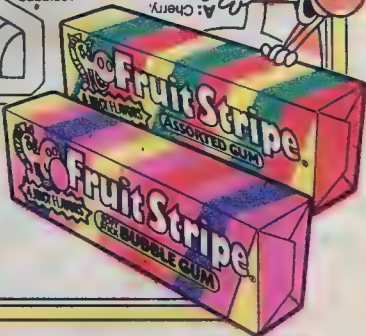
Q: What are the four
different kinds of
wild-o'-assie
juicy,
squirbby
bubbles?

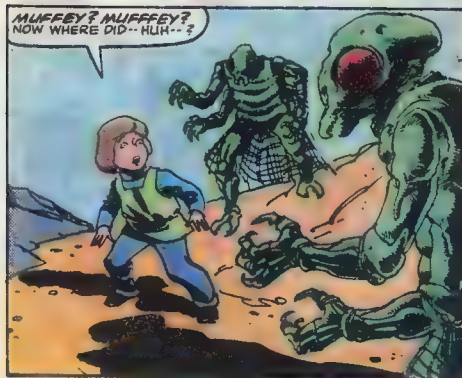
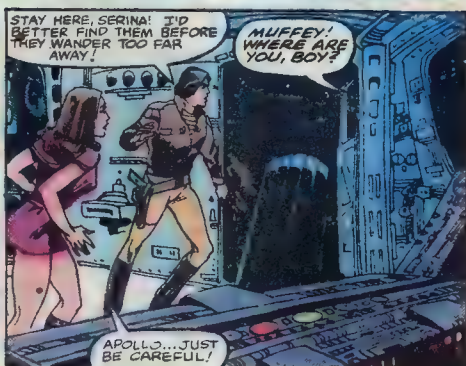
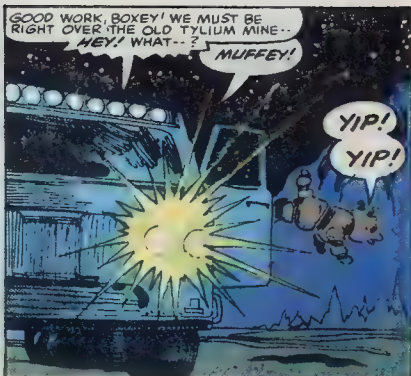
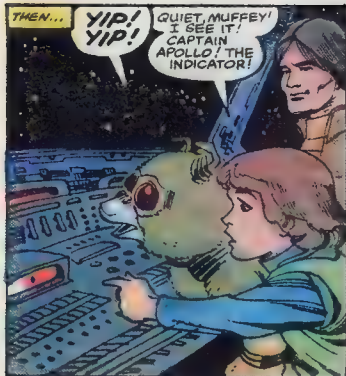
A: Cherry,
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Bubble Gum.
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It sure was fun galloping through Fruit Stripe Land with you.

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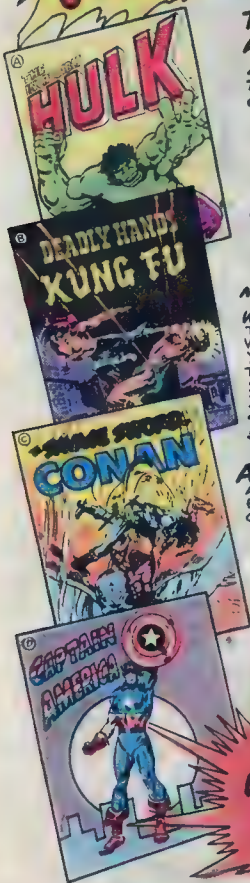
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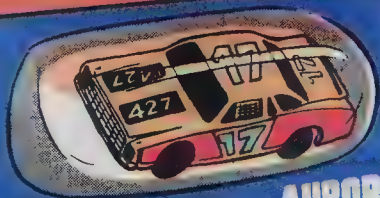
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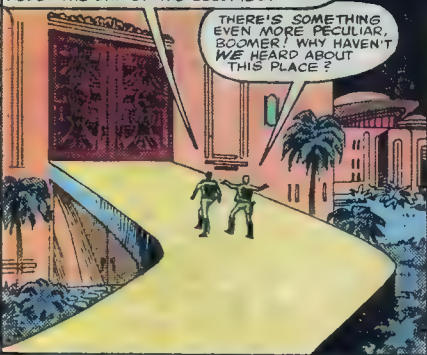
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The closest thing to real racing.

I DON'T GET IT! HOW CUT OFF CAN THEY BE? SHE ACTED LIKE SHE'D NEVER HEARD ABOUT THE END OF THE COLONIES!



THERE'S SOMETHING EVEN MORE PECULIAR, BOOMER! WHY HAVEN'T WE HEARD ABOUT THIS PLACE?

HOLY FELGERCARB! THE ODDS MUST BE INCREDIBLY HERE! PEOPLE ARE WINNING A FORTUNE!

AND THEY'RE OBVIOUSLY WELL FED! LET'S FIND WHOEVER'S IN CHARGE...



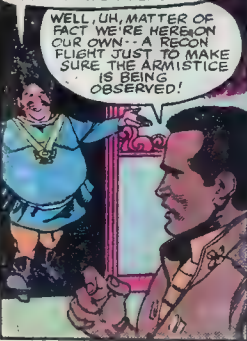
...AND SEE ABOUT GETTING SOME FOOD BACK TO THE FLEET!



HOLD IT, BOOMER! THE LAST THING THESE PEOPLE MAY WANT TO FIND IS A BATTLESTAR SITTING ON THEIR FRONT DOOR!



GENTLEMEN, WELCOME! YOUR UNIFORMS - COLONIAL FLEET, RIGHT? I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS IN THE AREA!



WELL, UH, MATTER OF FACT WE'RE HERE ON OUR OWN - A RECON FLIGHT JUST TO MAKE SURE THE ARMISTICE IS BEING OBSERVED!

AH! HOW WORTHY! CONSIDER YOURSELVES GUESTS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT! FOOD AND DRINKS ARE ON THE HOUSE...



BOOMER, UNTIL WE KNOW WHO THESE PEOPLE ARE, JUST KEEP IN MIND IT'LL ONLY TAKE ONE INFORMER TO BRING THE WHOLE CYLON WAR MACHINE ON ITS WAY!



FIRST THING WE DO IS CHECK IN WITH THE FLEET AND TELL 'EM WHAT WE'VE FOUND.

ELSEWHERE ON CARILLON...

FOUND ANY SIGN OF BOXEY, APOLLO?

NO, NOT YET, BUT I WILL. HE'S GOT TO BE AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE! I MEAN, WHERE COULD HE GO ON SUCH A BARREN AND DESERTED--

--D. DESERTED-- OH, BOY--!

A-APOLLO, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THIS PLANET?!

I DON'T KNOW-- BUT I THINK WE'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT!

SERINA--LOOK! THIS JUST MAY BE THE LARGEST TYLIUM MINE IN THE STAR SYSTEM--

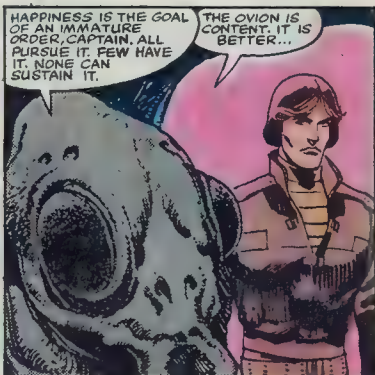
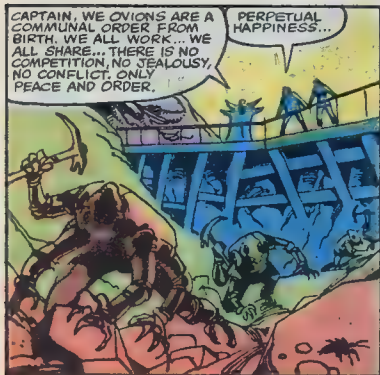
INDEED, CAPTAIN! IT IS!

WELCOME TO CARILLON! YOU ARE IMPRESSED?

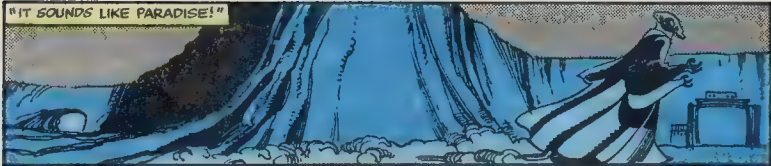
OUTRAGED WOULD BE MORE LIKE IT, WHERE IS THE BOY?

WOULD YOU CARE TO JOIN HIM?

YOU BET WE WOULD! AND IF ANYTHING'S HAPPENED TO HIM, YOU'LL ANSWER TO THE COLONIES!!



"IT SOUNDS LIKE PARADISE!"

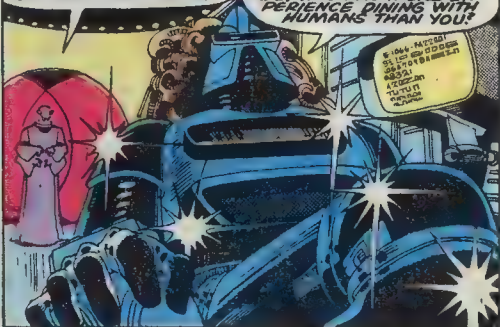


BY YOUR COMMAND...



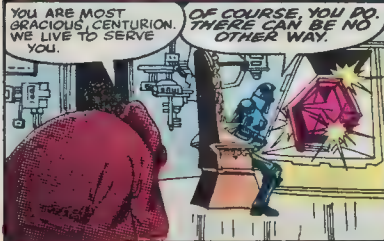
...THE HUMANS HAVE ALLOWED ONLY A FEW OF THEIR WARRIORS TO LAND. THE REST STAND ALERT ON THE BATTLESTAR.

THAT WILL CHANGE AS THEY GROW SECURE IN YOUR HOSPITALITY. AFTER ALL, WHO HAS MORE EXPERIENCE DINING WITH HUMANS THAN YOU?

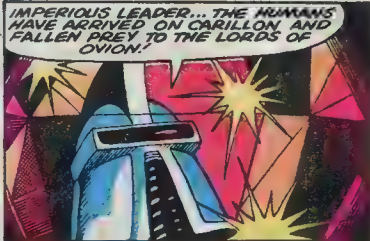


YOU ARE MOST GRACIOUS, CENTURION. WE LIVE TO SERVE YOU.

OF COURSE, YOU DO. THERE CAN BE NO OTHER WAY.



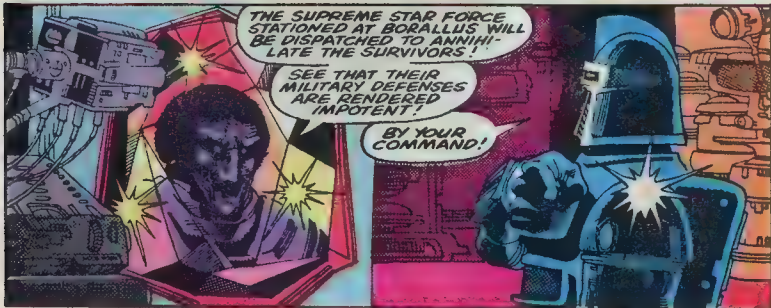
IMPERIOUS LEADER... THE HUMANS HAVE ARRIVED ON CARILLON AND FALLEN PREY TO THE LORDS OF OVION.



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BATTY BULLPEN
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AND, A CENTON LATER, ON THE SPRAWLING BRIDGE OF THE GALACTICA...

COMMANDER...

... A SQUADRON OF VIPERS HAS BEEN LAUNCHED, AS YOU ORDERED, BUT THIS PLAN OF YOURS IS RISKY, COMMANDER!

IF YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT THIS, SIRE URI WILL CRUCIFY YOU!

HE'D LIKE NOTHING BETTER, TIGH.

... BUT I AM NOT WRONG! THE CYLONS LED ME INTO THEIR MALICIOUS DECEPTION ONCE--

-- BUT NEVER AGAIN!

MEANWHILE, IN THE CASINO...

STARBUCK! I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU! WE'VE GOT TO TALK!

CAN'T IT WAIT, BOOMER? I'M RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF A HOT STREAK HERE!

IT'S IMPORTANT, STARBUCK!

OH, FELGERCARB! WHAT IS IT?

NOT HERE, STARBUCK, IT'S TOO CROWDED! SOMEONE MIGHT OVERHEAR US. C'MON!

HEY, WAIT! MY CUBITS! DON'T... DON'T...

FRAK!

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SOMETHING'S WRONG HERE, STARBUCK!

WRONG? WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE WRONG? THIS CASINO IS FANTASTIC! IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO LOSE!

THAT'S WHAT I MEAN! YOU EVER BEEN IN A CHANCERY WHERE YOU **COULDN'T** LOSE YOUR MONEY?

NO, BUT I'VE NEVER BEEN **HERE** BEFORE, EITHER!



NEITHER WAS ANYONE ELSE I KNOW OF! YOU BEEN THINKING ABOUT THAT, STARBUCK? SURE, THIS PLACE IS A LITTLE OUT OF THE WAY, BUT--

A LITTLE OUT OF THE WAY? WE ALMOST-STARVED TO DEATH GETTING HERE!



SURE-- BECAUSE MOST OF THE FLEET COULDN'T MAKE LIGHT SPEED! JUST LOOK AROUND, STARBUCK! HALF THE PEOPLE HERE ARE FROM OUR HOME PLANETS: CAPRICA... TAURON... SAGITARIA...

HOW IS IT THEY ALL COME HERE... BUT NEVER RETURN HOME TO TELL EVERYONE ABOUT CARILLON?



WOULD YOU TELL EVERYONE YOU'D FOUND A GOLD MINE? I MEAN, WHO KNOWS HOW LONG THEY'RE GONNA KEEP THIS UP? IT MAY BE SOME KIND OF INTRODUCTORY OFFER OR SOMETH-- HEY!

GET A LOAD OF THOSE GIRLS! THEY'RE GREAT!



"WE'D MAKE A FORTUNE IF WE COULD PUT THEM ON THE STAR CIRCUIT! I MEAN BIG MONEY, BOOMER!"



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AW, HAVE A LITTLE VISION, WILL YA? THE WAR CAN'T LAST FOREVER! SOME DAY IT'LL BE OVER... AND WHAT'LL WE BE? ANTIQUATED, BURNED-OUT STAR-FIGHTERS!

"IF WE LAST THAT LONG, YOU MEAN! I'VE HEARD PEOPLE TALKING ABOUT GUESTS WHO JUST DROPPED OUT OF SIGHT!"

SECOND LEVEL, PLEASE!

"BOOMER, IT'S A BIG PLACE! AND THEY HAVE SOME KIND OF TOUR A LOT OF PEOPLE GO ON BEFORE LEAVING FOR HOME "

HEY! WE MISSED MY STOP! WE'RE HEADING TO THE LOWER LEVELS!

"STARBUCK, I'M TELLIN' YOU I KNOW SOMETHING'S JUST NOT RIGHT"

OH, WELL! I'VE BEEN WONDERING WHAT WAS DOWN HERE ANY... ANY...

...BY THE GODS OF KOBOL!

NOOOO!!

THERE, STARBUCK, SEE WHAT I MEAN? THOSE THREE MEN! YOU KNOW 'EM?

NEVER SAW 'EM BEFORE. WHY?

OH, NOTHING... THEY'RE JUST WEARING INSIGNIAS FROM OUR SQUADRON. ONLY THING IS--

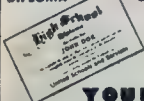
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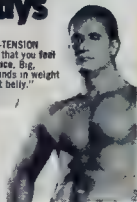
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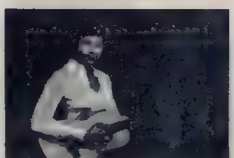
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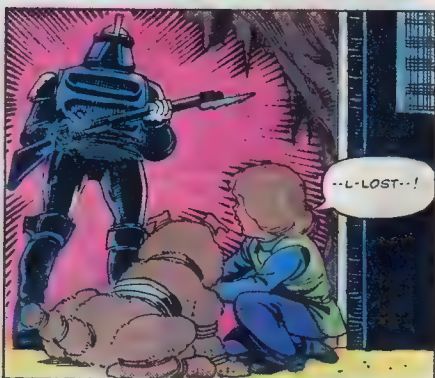
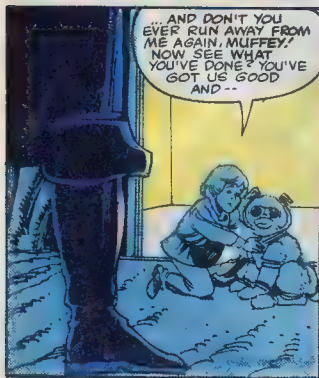
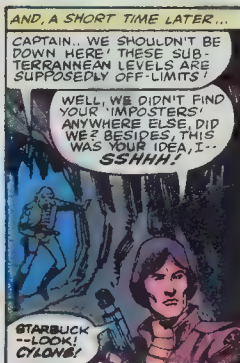
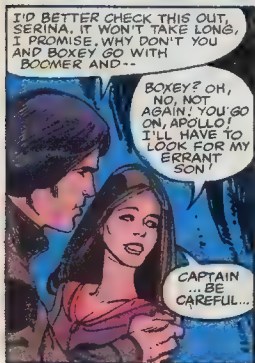
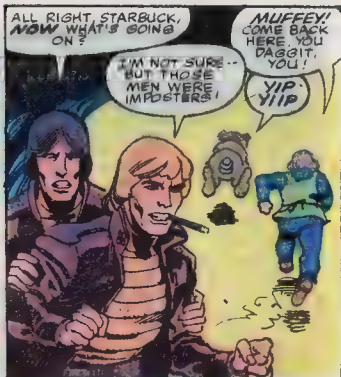
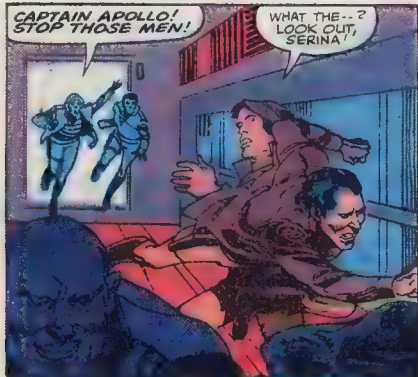
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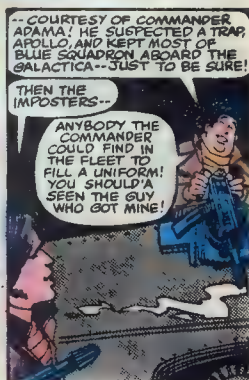
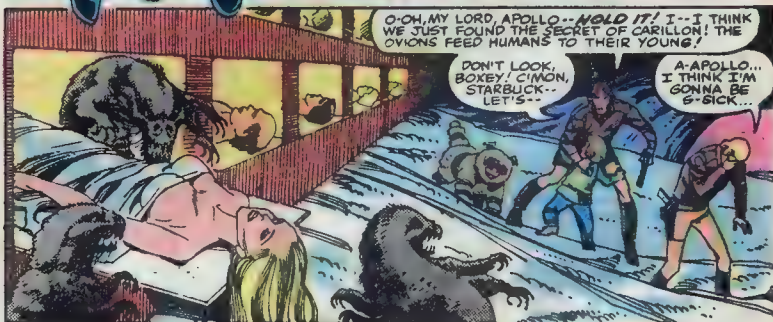
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STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hey, it's too much! You wouldn't believe the way the mail is pouring in with questions and comments about our Marvelous TV shows! The one query we most frequently hit with is "How can we, the Marvel readers, make our opinions known?" Well, culture lovers, even though there are no letter columns or Bullpen Bulletins on TV, there's one foolproof way for you to broadcast your own reactions to our titanic little TV tidbits. Just write a letter or postcard with your comments, criticisms, or congratulations about our live-action shows to CBS-TV 51 West 52nd St., New York, N.Y. 10019; or, if you wanna yak about the new Fantastic Four Saturday morning cartoon series, mail your missive to NBC-TV 3000 West Alameda Ave; Burbank, CA 91523.

In other words, all you need to do is write to the television network on which the program is presented, and remember—the mail they receive really does make a difference! Y'know, when the Dr. Strange two-hour movie was first shown on CBS a few months ago, dozens of people told me how much they enjoyed it. But when I asked if they had dropped a note to

CBS telling how they felt, not one of them had thought to do so, because they hadn't realized that their letters would matter. So, a word to the wise. (And who ever heard of an unwise Marvelite?) Your opinions really do count—but only if you let the network know!

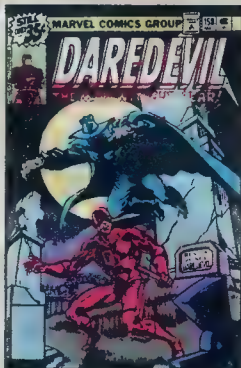
And, speaking of letting people know, if you happen to be in or near Miami, Florida on April 7th, drop by the Holiday Inn, 110th Street and Biscayne Blvd., in North Miami, and say hello. I'll be there, whoopin' it up for ol' Marvel, as usual, at the famous Miamicon 2, which runs from April 6th through the 8th, where it's always great to greet a horde of true believers!

So, till we meet again, let's all ponder the imperishable words of Irving Forbush: "Never hassle a howling Hulk—you wouldn't like him when he's angry!" Or, as we say in the Bullpen: "Never thrike an ailing Asgardian—you wouldn't like him when he's Thor!" (Forgive me gang—it's been a tough day!)

Excelsior!

Stan

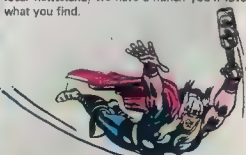
ITEM! In this column we often ramble on shamelessly about how well we're doing on various titles, and how wonderfully we've impressed ourselves with whatever new special project is on the fire at the moment. The fact is, without exception, the hype herein stems from sincere excitement about the creative endeavors we blurb, but sometimes it must seem to you that we're pushing our wares too hard. Now, we were going to start off this month's news with a wowie-kazowie rave about our impending almost-a-shoe-in TV deal for none other than SPIDER-WOMAN, and pat ourselves on the back for the terrific job that we've done with the character, but with our aforementioned worries in mind—well, we just can't! In many ways, we have every right to brag—after all, who can knock success? We've had terrific penciling issue after issue by Carmine Infantino, top-notch scripting by both longtime superstar Marv Wolfman and talented upstart Mark Gruenwald, and nifty inking by recent discovery Al Gordon. Even the coloring's been outstanding. What's more, the mail response has been overwhelmingly enthusiastic and the sales have been pretty good! With a TV deal in the offing, who, you may well inquire, could ask for anything more? Frankly, we could. Maybe we're crazy to want to tamper with a winner,



but there just seemed to be something missing from Spider-Woman. As any pro will tell you, something can be very good without being "right." The best art and the best wordsmithing

don't always guarantee that special magic in a series—that happy harmony in the creative effort that makes a book a standout. Not being the type of folks to settle for less than perfect, several weeks ago, Jim Shooter, Mark Gruenwald, Marv Wolfman, Jim Selickup, and Stan the Man himself settled into Stan's office, ordered up lunch (on the company!) and spent the entire afternoon talking things out, analyzing our approach to Spider-Woman, discussing who she is, why she is that way, and how to best portray her. It was a long, exhausting brainseison—but worth it, because a lot of things fell into place! At last, we think we've got it! Spider-Woman #14 ought to be on sale soon after you read this. If you should happen to buy a copy, (and we certainly hope you will) be sure and write in and tell us how we're doing. After all, you folks out there have the final word!

ITEM! All humility aside, we'd like to mention that we happened to have produced a few of the best comics ever, anywhere, which are on sale right now! For instance? Well, how about DAREDEVIL #158, which brings you the long-awaited revelation of the secret of *Deathstalker*. Roger McKenzie wrote it, Frank Miller pencilled it, Klaus Janson inked it, and, no two ways about it, it's magnificent. Another out-and-out triumph is THOR #283, by Roy Thomas, John Buscema and Chic Stone, featuring a tale entitled, "Suddenly...the Celestials!" Still another smash is MICRO NAUTS #5, "The Prometheus Pit", by Bill Mantlo, Mike Golden and Joe Rubinstein. There are other great comics from Marvel this month, of course, but we'll leave for you the joy of discovering them. Check out your local newsstand. We have a hunch you'll love what you find.



ITEM! Just a quick parting note. Many people have written in asking just who it is who writes this crazy column. Most folks presume it's Smilin' Stan, since his is the only signature on the whole bullpen page, but, in fact, Stan writes only the soapbox part of the page. Ye Olde Editor-in-Chief pens these lines, and hereby is declared responsible for all dumb mistakes herein. So, there! The truth, at last, is out. Now can we please lay to rest the rumor that Jim Shooter has fled to Borneo babbling something about schedules?

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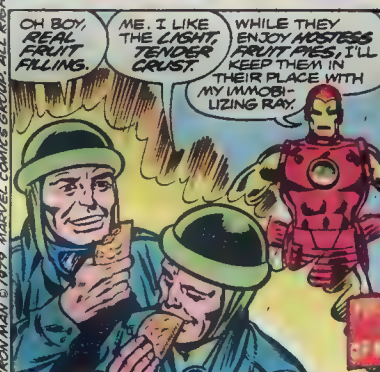
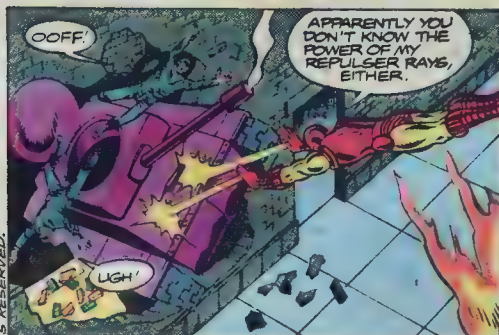
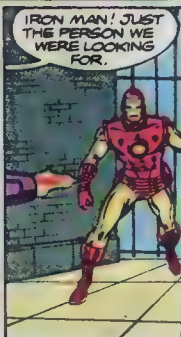
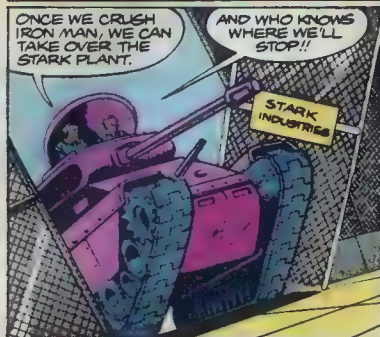
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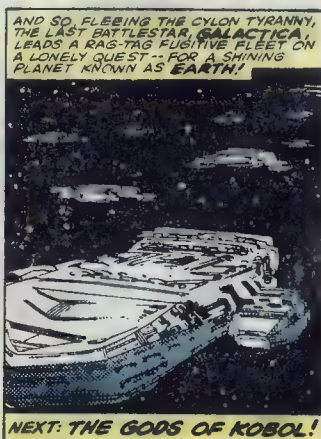
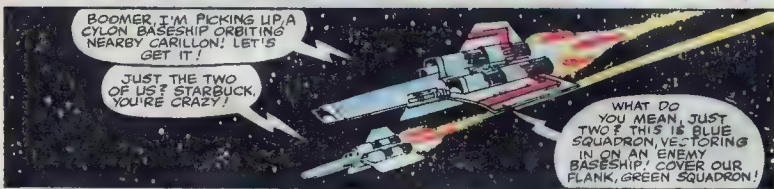
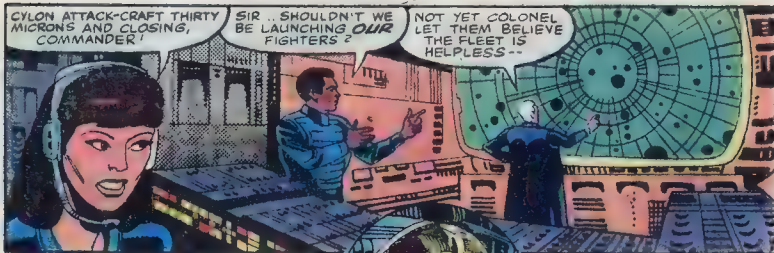
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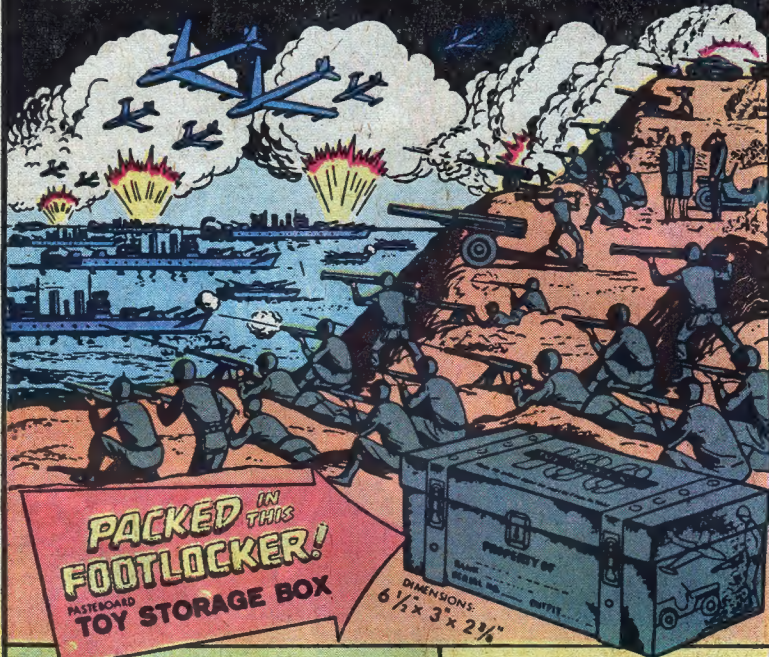


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